

JUNE

963

CROSBY POST



PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

SWEET LEILANI

I'VE GOT A POCKETFUL OF
DREAMS

ON THE SENTIMENTAL SIDE

AN APPLE FOR THE TEACHER

EAST SIDE OF HEAVEN

ONE, TWO, BUTTON YOUR SHOE

MEET THE SUN HALFWAY

THE MOON GOT IN MY EYES

TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA

ME AND THE MOON

SOUTH SEA ISLAND MAGIC

WHEN MOTHER NATURE SINGS
HER LULLABY

BING'S THE
POP OF
THE POPS



Bing Crosby

THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY (founded March 1950)

Honorary President; Mr Bing Crosby. * The Crosby Office
* 9229 Sunset Boulevard
Hon Vice-President; Mr Larry Crosby. * Los Angeles 69 - U.S.A.

Honorary members include; - Michael Holliday; Charles Graves;
Ken Sykora; Georgie Wood; George O' Reilly; Buddy Cole;

Active Co-Presidents; Frank Murphy & Jack Manners. All comm's to
8, Jardin Str, Camberwell, London S.E.5.

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San Mateo, California, U.S.A.

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Photo & Disc Section; Bill Hall, 11 Chichester Str, Gateshead, 8 Co Durham

Tape Crosby; Stan White, 57 Stanley Str, Rothwell, Kettering, Northants.

The British Crosby Society is associated with the American Club Crosby,
President Miss Rena Albanesi, 128 Kimball Terr, Yonkers 4, New York.

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required

An X ~~here~~ signifies that your renewal is now due and your current
membership ceases with this issue. Please forward your renewal direct
to JACK MANNERS. Membership rates; British Isles 10/- Overseas \$2 (14/-)

Please make all remmitances payable to The British Crosby Society.

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EDITORIAL

For the first time in many issues there's no "Groaner in the Groove" feature this time - we hope for a few new record issues before the next Crosby Post.

I had quite a laugh as I prepared the print on Jean Paul Frereault's article - I found the section which referred to his search for Crosby records and its leading him to "pawnbrokers establishments" very amusing. I visualised some of our collectors legging along to this 'new source' to see what they could find.

I liked Jack's description of the members who attended Ralph's meeting - he has a cute way of making these details sound very amusing. I can vouch for them too as Ralph got the members present to send me a little return tape and judging from the noise and friendly patter going on in the back-ground the setting certainly seemed to be a happy one.

I'll be looking forward to meeting these and other members when I attend the meeting at Jack's home on Saturday July 20th.

Les and I were very thrilled to get a mention in Bing's letter to Stan White, just shows what a great guy "Der Bingle" is.

As Crosby Post now reaches you very early in the month of issue - this of course means that I must complete work on it much sooner than in the past. In order that I can keep the regular newsy articles flowing, will you remember to let me have your articles etc before the 10th day of the month prior to issue coming out; For the next issue I'll require the material by July 10th. If it arrives later, I must regretfully hold it over.

Since the last issue I've had the pleasure of personal visits from members Michael Crampton of Leeds and Derek Parkes from Salisbury. And of course each Friday night a regular group of six to eight local members arrive at my home for a real good old Bing session; The happy friends we make are really the essence of our club.

Till next time then, I'll look forward to hearing from you.... Best wishes. Frank

We extend a warm welcome to the club's new members.....

Miss Eileen Waters,
75 Wolfinton Road,
West Norwood;
London S.E. 27

Mr A Hillyer,
5 West Street,
Minehead,
Somerset.

Mr Raymond Flatow,
176 Seeley Str,
Brooklyn 18
New York,
U. S. A.

... and our appreciation to the following members for their much appreciated donations.....

Johnny Hopkins 5/-
Brenda Miles 5/-
Jack & Betty Hale £2-3-0
Arnold Dix 5/-
Joe Hall 5/-

CLUB MEETING

On Saturday July 20th a club meeting will be held at the home of Jack Manners, 8 Jardin Str, Camberwell, London S.E.5. A cordial invitation is extended to all club members who'd like to attend. It is hoped that leading Honorary members will be present and Bing has been asked to send a taped message. If you can make it, please send Jack a card advising him that you will be coming.

Don't forget - its July 20th, - make a date and don't be late - you'll have a ball meeting many of this countries leading 'Bing' collectors.

4 "JUNE CROZ-TALK" --- presenting our bi-monthly Crosby news round-up. Its written for you by Co-Pres; Jack Manners and this time Jack includes a review of the club meeting at Ralph Harding's; "what's happened to Bing on film"; The club raffle result and a new photo offer from USA member Eddie Rice;.....

Hello again;

The meeting at Ralph Harding's home last month brought together a dozen of us and quite a pleasant time was had by all, as is usual with these good things and the time passed all too quickly. Ralph obviously enjoyed himself answering all queries, and occasionally above the noise and smoke, a 'dash of Bing' could be heard. Frank sent us a taped message and this was appreciated by all, especially those members who had not seen or heard Frank before.

Here's my impression of the members who attended;-

CHARLIE TUPPER-on the whole, quiet but very immersed.

CHARLIE THORPE-of the eagle eye for 78's and spare cups of tea.

IES BRICE-quite happy with a bargain of Bing's Auto biography.

BILL ENGLAND-very interested, never still, but more relaxed later;

JOE HALL-glued to the works, smoking numerable cigars.

CHARLIE HALL-quietly demanding his favourite Bing's and getting at least one.

GORDON RODGERS-quite happy and without doubt comedian of the party.

BOB ROBERTS-the same as I always find him, content to be among

"Bing" company.

VERA ROBERTS-complete with musical skirt with BING outstanding.

KIT MANNERS-content to sit and listen.

DIANA HARDING (Ralph's wife) a fine 'Nippi' keeping our parched throats refreshed with tea, and more tea.

All in all a nice time and our thanks to Ralph and Diana.

I don't think there is much doubt that this is the quietest period of Bing's career, and I know you will agree this is not good medicine - we have for so long been accustomed to regular 'doses' from our 'Doctor of Music' apart from this I have been puzzling these last few years why Bing has not 'clicked' - In saying this, I am not thinking of the Top Ten, but the acclaim has not been forthcoming with the great stuff on his LP work and those singles I spoke of in the last issue. The same applies to some recent films and the many TV shows. As we all know, Bing puts his all into anything he does, and yet I do miss the spontaneous humour of our Bing of earlier years - It was certainly evident in the TV show when Bing guested with Perry Como and also in the film "High Society" - "High Time" was quite a good film, but where were the songs we associate with a "Crosby film" "The second time around" was a good ballad, I agree. But why only one? - two or even three swinging numbers issued as singles on the release of the film would surely have been good business. "Say one for me" I would say was a film not really appreciated by the critics. The point they failed to make in their reviews was the weakness of the supporting cast. Bing had to carry the film on his own - his rendering of "The secret of Christmas" never recieved a fraction of the success it deserved. To my mind "The Road to Hong Kong" was not a 'Road' film as we know them. No hot dusty trails and ribald situations in which Bing, Bob and Dot loved to revel so much. "Road to Hong Kong

although quite enjoyable did not to me, measure up to previous 'Roads' and there was no excuse for the drowning of the title tunes. "Teamwork and "Let's not be sensible"

Recent TV shows can not be said to have given Bing a 'lift' the Bing, Perry show, the Bing, Dean Martin show, the Bing, Johnny Mercer show, the Bing, Frank Sinatra show - they all failed on either bad sound or vision. Not forgetting the Wembley show. Now these shows all had great reviews in America. Not to us maybe, but to the general public, these poor shows, mostly owing to technical faults, have done more harm than good to our champion. In fairness I would say the Bing, Mary Martin show was a big improvement both in sound and vision, but here again I missed the typical humorous scene we associate with Bing but was overjoyed at the vintage Bing songs.

It is almost a sure thing as time goes by, the popularity of any star must fade to some extent, but when as in Bing's case he comes up occasionally with a vintage number only to see it floored, it leaves one mystified. I'm sure Bing himself must feel a little dissatisfied and even puzzled at the lack of success of this period, but being so easy going he would never blame anyone but himself. But I feel through poor publicity and in some cases bad management both technical and constructively, he has been let down on many ventures - I repeat if Bing would work up an interest in the production of at least two top musicals, and at the same time set the songs issued at the time of release, he would regain his public. The management and publicity must be right as in the case of "High Society" This film had them lining up - The public still wants Bing.

We could ask ourselves the question, does Bing himself want to break through again right on top. I think he does and he must know how we feel for him.

As we know only too well, there are literally thousands of Bing admirers tucked away in the British Isles alone - getting them aware of the existence of our club is certainly a problem, and the way I see it, we must all of us, in our daily chores try to single out by casual conversation among the people we meet, those who might show some interest. If you will then drop me a line with an address, I will do the rest. We have got some members this way and I'm sure many more could be interested.

Here now is an item which is a must for your Bing collection. Ed Rice of California has recently come into possession of a wonderful caricature portrait of Bing done by one of the foremost portrait artists in Hollywood. This 12" by 15" portrait was done for the Philco people who had 4,000 copies hung in the Hollywood Brown Derby Restaurant in 1946 to commemorate the start of the Philco radio series starring Bing. These copies were then taken down and mailed out to the many radio stations handling the broadcast. Ed has had exact copies made by a professional sign artist using the silk screen process which are accurate in every detail and indistinguishable from the original. Printed in black on off white on heavy artist card these wonderful lifelike drawings could be the centre of attraction in your record room.

Jack concludes "CROZ-TALK" on page 15

For the first alternative take this month, we go back to 1945.

YOU SANG MY LOVE SONG TO SOMEBODY ELSE Master W73256 Dec 27, 1945

Take "A" issued on Brunswick (Eng) IA 8724
Bing sings.....".....did it secretly....."

Take "B" issued on Brunswick (Eng) 03646
Bing sings....."you did it secretly....."

On this disc Bing is accompanied by Bob Haggart's Orch and The Jesters.

In addition to the two English Brunswick labels mentioned above, the song was also issued on; Decca (USA) 23508; Decca (USA) DL 5331; Decca (AUST) Y 6080; Columbia (India) DB 50016.

For the second alternative take we go back even further, to 1941.

GOODBYE LITTLE DARLING GOODBYE Master DIA2402 May 23, 1941

Take "A" issued on Brunswick (ENG) IAT 8253
Bing sings....."....Goodbye..." and holds the note*

Take "B" issued on Brunswick (ENG) 4385
Bing sings....."Goodbye - Goodbye...." *

* This refers to the last line of the song.

This song features Bing with the John Scott Trotter Eight and was also issued on the following discs; Decca (USA) 3856; Decca (USA) I8767; Decca (AUST) Y5679; Decca (CANADA) IO300; Columbia (INDIA) DB30057; Brunswick (South Africa) 2065;

(a film cameo) FATHER CROSBY by TED LAKER

It was something of an experiment but a highly successful one when Bing played the easy going priest in "GOING MY WAY" winning for his role, the highly coveted academy award, also the now defunct "Picturgoer" trophy.

Fans were pleasantly surprised by Bing's sincerity in the film, also the fine songs he was given the opportunity to put over. His teaming with the late grand old Irish actor Barry Fitzgerald was also a stroke of genius, the character actor almost walking off with many of the duo's scenes.

It was natural I suppose with the success of the first excursion by Bing into priesthood, that a follow up vehicle should be searched for. "THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S" with co-star Ingrid Bergman provided just the material once again. Crosby gave a sincere performance, had some fine scenes and tunes to work on, but the film didn't receive as much acclaim as "GOING MY WAY".

Quite some years were to roll by before Bing was to don a cassock again for a film role but "SAY ONE FOR ME" provided him with another opportunity. This film had a couple of good Crosby scenes but did...

..... not provide enough scope for Bing's singing, as did the earlier films in this vein. The main fault seemed to be that too much emphasis was placed on Crosby's co-stars, and Bing tended to underplay his part a little too much.

These few noted were inspired by the news that Bing is again set to play a priest in what promises to be the most dramatic part of his career, the film entitled "THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE" is of a very serious nature. If all goes well perhaps Bing may well be in line for another academy award.

"thanks for the memory" A TRIBUTE TO RALPH RAINGER
by Ken Mc Manus

I have often wondered how many collectors, when playing a favourite disc, in our case BING - peruse the label and digest the fund of information on it. For example, the small print after the title. How many of you - without wading through their collection can name the composer and author of such gems as "Sweet Georgia Brown" "You're the top" "Easy to love" "Meet the Sun halfway" and "Ghost of a chance" - Bing of course had a hand in the last song, a great title if ever there was one.

I think it is high time a little more credit was due to the men who played a really tremendous part in the success of our idol - and I must add - vice versa for Bing made many really mediocre songs into best sellers.

So with the kind permission of our editor I will try to provoke a little more interest in those labels - If only one member writes in to say he has 50 Cole Porter songs by Bing I shall be happy - at least he has had to count them AND I hope played them.

So for my first tribute, I would like to write about Ralph Rainger - I say first - it may be my last - it depends upon your reaction dear readers. If you approve I would like in the future to spotlight men like Hoagy Carmichael, The Tobias Brothers, Cole Porter, Johnny Mercer and maybe as a wind-up - Bing as a composer.

Ralph Rainger was born in New York 7th October 1901 the son of a carpet dealer who sent his five children to music lessons when they were quite young. Ralph's first job was with a firm of lawyers but he spent all of his spare time sitting in on piano who played at a club nearby. He finally turned professional and got a job in a pit orchestra at the Ambassador Theatre New York. His early songs didn't sell at all, and it was while acting as accompanist to Clifton Webb that he wrote his first hit "Moanin' Low" in 1929.

In the early 30's he moved to Hollywood. There everything changed for Ralph. He met a really clever lyric writer, name of Leo Robin and between them they wrote songs that are associated with Bing more than any other singer. This wonderful partnership continued until 1942 when Ralph was tragically killed in an air crash. A good song will last forever - in these days of commercial junk peddled as songs - Well Ralph Rainger songs stick out like palm

cont on page 8

8 Canadian member JEAN PAUL FREREAULT sends in a report
which appeared in Canadair News January 1954

EMPLOYEE HAS LARGEST SET OF CROSBY RECORDS IN AMERICA
by J. Y. Desroches Dept 92I

Some people try to break records while others collect them. The latter pastime is the hobby of Jean Paul Frereault, Leadhand inspector of Quality Control Receiving. In 12 short years he has collected 895 different recordings of Bing Crosby, America's all time favourite baritone. Different from other collectors, Jean Paul does not possess a recording of any other artist in his home.

It all started in 1942 when Mrs Frereault gave her husband a record player. Jean Paul was so pleased with his gift he went out and bought \$15.00 worth of Bing Crosby records. Later he bought more and got so interested in his collection he devoted all his spare time to 'digging' up old records of the 'Groaner'. Besides enjoying Bing's voice, Jean Paul never fails to see all his films and since his first investment he claims there isn't a music store, second hand store or pawnbrokers establishment in Quebec that he hasn't visited in his search for records to add to his collection. One of the best places, he finds, to get the real oldies, is at the auction sales. He attends these whenever he can.

Some years ago Bing Crosby visited Montreal and while playing golf at Laval sur le Lac, Jean Paul spoke to him about his collection. Crosby admitted that he had not heard of a larger collection. Since then many more recordings have been added and Jean Paul values his collection at well over \$2,500,000;

KEN concludes his great article on RALPH RAINGER

....trees in the desert. So he could be rated at great on any one of his songs. I do not propose to list everything he ever wrote., Frank wouldn't give me the space (hold it Ken - if the members now demand my execution, I'll blame you - ha-ha) But listed below are a few of the gems and I must add that the lyrics by Leo Robin are pure poetry. After Rainger's death he worked with many other song writers, all associated with Bing - so in future articles whenever the name Robin appears after the song its the sign of sure fire hit lyrics, for example "Love is just around the corner"

"Please" Rainger/Robin-Film "The Big Broadcast of 1932

"June in January"

"With every breath I take" Rainger/Robin-Film- "Here Is My Heart" 1934

"Love in bloom" Rainger/Robin-Film "She Loves Me Not" 1934

"I wished on the Moon" Rainger/Parker-Film "The Big Broadcast of 1936

BOB ROBERTS sends in an interesting clipping from a recent M.M.

Here's a ballad that hasn't been improved by a rocking new look. Its "BEAUTIFUL DREAMER" by TONY ORLANDO - For this effort, Orlando should be bound hand and foot and delivered to BING CROSBY for use as a golf ball.....

here's a great letter from Bing himself to our
own STAN WHITE with a closing spot especially
directed to YOU

Las Cruces
April 27, 1963

BING CROSBY - HOLLYWOOD:

Dear Stan;

I appreciate very much your long and informative letter of April 14th. There was a great deal of news in there, and I'm sure that I'll profit by some of the things you had to say.

Yours is not the first complaint about the quality of the television show. Unhappily, once it is sent over there, it's completely out of our hands, and we have no control over what is done in the way of editing.

The lack of photographic quality though, baffles me. I don't know why this should be. Practically every show in America is on tape - very few live shows anymore - and they're all replayed, some of them many times, and in no case within my memory have there been any appreciable loss of quality.

I must tell you that I know absolutely nothing about the technical end of this business - how tapes are made, how they are dubbed or duplicated - so I can't be very helpful in trying to supply any answers.

I am turning your letter, however, over to people in charge here, and maybe they can do something about it, although I have resorted to them in the past without any appreciable success.

Doubtless there is much material in the old radio shows which I did with Buddy Cole and with Rosemary Clooney which could be made into LPs. We've often thought of this, and I'm going to get a project activated that will probably lead toward doing just that.

I'm happy to hear about the success that you've enjoyed with your find, Selwyn Cox. I hope he has a big career. Sounds like he is a gifted young man.

Congratulations on your wedding, and on the young one who is due soon. Same congratulations, of course, to your wife Mavis.

Please give my best to Murphy and Gaylor and all the other people who are so loyal to me and so helpful too.

Believe me to be -

Your friend.

signed

BING

Bing Crosby

We're sure Bing will join in all our congratulations to Stan and Mavis on the birth of a fine baby boy - Gary Nigel, who Mavis tells us has the famous 'White' dimple in his chin - every good wish you happy threesome from all the B.C.S.



1872

II * Its over to the United States for Pat Sullivan's *

 * "AMERICAN NEWSLETTER" which includes a review of *

 * Bing's TV show with Dinah Shore, a newsy item on *

 * Gary Crosby and part one of our serial - BING AND *

 * I by Kathryn Grant Crosby *

 * ----- *

Hello members;

I have made a move from Milwaukee to California and am now living in a small city 18 miles South of San Francisco called San Mateo, anyone writing to me should now use my new address which you can find in the list of Officers on page two of this issue.

Summertime news on the Crosby's is always rather scant. The papers have had reports that Bing and Kathryn are considering the Bay area here near San Francisco as a possible location for a new home they wish to purchase. They are interested in relocating in order to raise the children away from the Hollywood atmosphere. Bing has'nt done any TV since his guest spot with Dinah Shore which was a real swinger. Just can't over-emphasize how wonderful Bing was on that show. Here's the Variety report; -

"Dinah Shore's show became a major event with the addition of Bing Crosby to its cast. The prescence of Der Bingle was not only a valuable asset to its entertainment values, but he seemed to excite every department as well. The intro's by the male chorus was one of the plusses evident, which also included the colourful trumpeting of Al Hirt and the folk efforts of Bud and Travis. Not the least were the songs by the hostess herself. It all added up to Dinah's best presentation this season. Bing's casual air and humour laden renditions generated excitement. "In a little Spanish town" and "Quizas, Quizas Quizas" comprised the first medley and then with Miss Shore he sat down for a light-hearted and gay session of singing and banter. It was an easy graceful stint by a pair of pros. Crosby also seemed a bit thinner than usual, but didn't let it interfere with his work. He seems ageless".

Priscilla and I are disbanding the Crosby Brothers Fan Club because of lack of news. Gary is the only Crosby son currently active in the business - Here's a recent clip; -

GARY CROSBY PREFERS TO BE A COMEDIAN

Gary Crosby is one of Hollywood's sharpest wits, but he says no-one will take him seriously as a comedian. "As soon as I start punching Jones on a stage" says Bing's eldest, "the customers start looking in the wings for dad to come out" - they figure Garys only joking as an introduction to Bing, says the husky voiced singer. So Gary limits his patter to a fraction of his night club act. "Let's face it, I'm a singer whether I want to be or not" He's also an actor and plans to concentrate on that phase of his career. "Expenses on the road are so great that a night club act can't sh a profit anymore aexcept in Las Vegas or Miami, I'm a home loving boy now with a nice wife and son. I don't care for the hotel room bit"

Pat continues on page I2

And with the clipping on Gary, that's the news for this issue and before going over to our serial - All best wishes, as ever, to everyone in England,.

Sincerely - Pat

We now present Part One of a really great story titled;-
"BING AND I" The lovely young woman who married America
perennially popular crooner tells what its like to be a wife,
mother and grandma - all at the age of 28 + by Kathryn Crosby.

: One night, not long ago, Gary Crosby and his wife Barbara invited my husband, Bing, and me to dinner. When we arrived their son Steve rushed to greet us at the door. "Hi Granpa Bing" he shouted. Then, with a second look at me, he added, "And hi, Grandma Kathryn"

It was at that point that I realized- perhaps more than ever before - How fortunate I really am. At the age of 28 and after barely five years of marriage, I am the natural mother of three children, I have four handsom stepsons and seven grandchildren, not to mention several assorted nieces and nephews on my side of the family. And may I tell you that when this rollicking group gets together for a Sunday afternoon picnic at our house, a few three year olds may go home with black eyes! But is'nt that true of any large family gathering?

I cannot pretend that bing married to Bing Crosby is the same as being married to Mr Joe Anybody. However, although there are considerable differences - such as my premature grandmother-hood - there are many similarities too. Becuase of the special nature of Bing's career. many of the things that happen to us, might take place in unusual or exotic settings; but, like every other family, we experience worry, happiness, pain, frustration, warmth anxiety and mutual love.

Do you remember the time one of your youngsters might have taken a header and frightened you out of a years growth? Well, the Crosby's go through experiences like that too.

Last spring for example, one of our dearest friends, Rosemary Clooney, had been working very hard doing television shows and recordings, and I invited her to spend a long and restful weekend with Bing and me at our house in Las Cruces, near the southern tip of the Baja peninsula in Mexico. Rosie and I flew down in our private plane. Our tow older children, Harry Jr and Mary Frances were already there with their father. Bing and the two youngsters met us at the landing strip in our tiny Renault car, which has wicker seats, no doors and no top. The two miles between the air strip and our house are extremely circuitous and bumpy, and the rule is that the children always sit in the back seat tightly encased in safety belts. However since Rosemary and I could'nt both sit in the one bucket seat in the front, we climbed in the back with Mary Frances and Harry sat proudly in the front seat next to Bing (who was driving) holding onto the small chromium bar on the dash-board.

Suddenly, but as if in slow motion, Harry fell out of the car. Right after that I felt a slight bump. I was positive we had run over him. We sat still for what seemed like an hour but it could

.....only have been a second or two. Bing and I leaped from the car to the small bloodied body. At that point, and I thank God, Harry started bellowing like a bull. His little face was a mass of blood and dirt and sand and I could see his arm was split to the bone.

Since I am studying to be a nurse, my training told me I should keep him level and move him as little as possible. As Bing and I bent over him, he said, "I'm sorry Mommy and Daddy, I won't fall out again" I came as close to fainting then as I ever have.

We had to pick him up and get him into the car, and then as we continued to the house I got as much sand out of Harry's mouth and left eye as I could. Then we wrapped him in a blanket and took him to the plane where our pilot flew us all to the Social Security Hospital at La Paz, about a five minute flight from Las Cruces.

I held Harry, and Bing paced outside as X-rays were taken, establishing the fact that we had not run over him. There was no crack in the skull. The marvelous doctor sutured the wounds in his forehead cheek and forearm. Bing and I spent the night in Harry's room, where he slept under sedative. Rosemary was holding the fort at home, comforting a very disturbed Mary Frances.

The following morning Harry was allowed to go home. Bing sent a ship-to-shore message from a boat in the harbor to our pediatrician Dr John Ragan in Los Angeles (later Dr Ragan told me he thought Bing was an excellent ship-to-shore radio operator but not such a hot diagnostician. Bing had told him he thought Harry's skull was fractured because the area around his eye was so swollen)

We then left immediately on the four and a half hour flight to Los Angeles. Dr Ragan met us at the airport and we went directly to the Childrens Hospital. Harry remained there for four days. Today, six months later, Harry is fine although there is still some sand under the left eye, buried in the skin, and he still looks as if he has a black eye (which isn't unlikely with his sister around) When I think of the whole nightmare, I recall that poor Rosemary Clooney's "long and restful weekend" lasted a total of 15 grief torn hours.

As this experience indicates the life which Bing and I live does encompass the usual happening within the unusual. For the most part, the unusual has to do with geography.....

PART TWO of this great story will appear in the next issue - it tells about the Crosby Ranch at Rising River, California, The Crosby house at Palm Springs, California and the newest residence at Las Cruces, Mexico;

COVER NOTES

The photos on the front cover were supplied by our good friend Stan White - I think we've got a very good copy of the 'smiling Bing'. The full page pic of Bing on page 10 was supplied by USA member Eddie Rice. Eddie has loaned the club the negative of this great shot and you can order this photo from Photo Section - ask for photo No 61. The back cover is the first of a series of still photos from early Bing films - a selection of these was recently kindly sent me by Newcastle member Jack Shaw - This also is available from Photo Section and to order ask Bing for photo No 62; There's news of a new development in Photo Section later in this issue.

continuing our popular series in which members spotlight their all time top ten Bing recordings;

John Finan, 56 Bullroyd Lane, Allerton Rd, Bradford 8, Yorks;

(1) Temptation; (2) Black Moonlight; (3) The Touch of your lips; (4) San Antonio rose; (5) And the Angels sing; (6) Home on the Range-Col; (7) Ridin down the canyon; (8) Trade winds; (9) If I Knew then; (10) On behalf of the visiting firemen.

Keith Hyde, "El Bingo" 21 Carbeena Parade, West Heidelberg-Aust

(1) Learn to croon; (2) Lullaby; (3) Now you has jazz; (4) Don't fence me in; (5) Sweet Georgia brown; (6) White Christmas; (7) Sweetly she sleeps my Alice fair; (8) Sweet Leilani; (9) Quiet Girl; (10) Dear old girl;

John Maughan, 1 Lauderdale Ave, Wallsend, Northumberland.

(1) Please-1932; (2) Thanks; (3) Dear old Donegal; (4) Sweet Leilani; (5) Mexicali rose; (6) Just one more chance-1931; (7) June in January; (8) Whiffenpoof song; (9) Pennies from Heaven; (10) An apple for the teacher;

Bob Roberts, London House, Sarratt, Nr Rickmansworth, Herts;

(1) Many happy returns of the day; (2) Moonstruck; (3) My Love; (4) I've got to pass your house; (5) Learn to croon; (6) Cabin in the pines; (7) Melancholy baby; (8) Never in a million years; (9) Just one more chance-1939; (10) High on the list.

Alan Turie 22 St James Rd, Salford 7 Lancs;

"I think its very difficult to state which his best recordings are as different members like Bing at different stages in his career. I personally think his voice during the 1937/44 era was at its finest and hearing some tracks from his Kraft Music Hall days, I think proves this."

And how about your most DISLIKED BING RECORDING - Our own Bill Hall starts the ball rolling with "If I loved you" Bill reckons that Bing just doesn't get with it on this disc - I recall Stan White saying the very same thing on Tape Crosby a while ago. Send your own pet hates and we'll print them (a few at a time)

STOPPRESS NEWS ABOUT PHOTO SECTION

We have some exciting news for those members who like collecting the big photos of Bing - We can now supply really giant size pics size 10" X 12" at 5/- each as well as 8" X 10" and postcards. You can order in any of these sizes from the list of over 60 poses now; To sumerize - here is the price list;

Post cards.....9d each	-	USA 8 for \$1.:	Please direct all
8" X 10".....3/6 "	-	" 2 " \$1.:	orders to BILL HALL
10" X 12".....5/- "	-	" 3 " \$2.;	address on page two

15 "CROZ-TALK" conclusion;.....

The price of this Ed Rice special is 2I/- to British Isles members ---- overseas members can purchase direct from Eddie by writing him at 647 Lanny Ave, La Puente, California. British Isles members should send in their orders by the closing date on June 29 - please send your order and cash to me - thanks.

The result of our last club raffle was; 1st Prize, Brenda Miles and 2nd prize Cyril Cummings. Sorry to report a poor response this t. , only 28/- raised for the funds, so roll up next time please.

Our friend Les Brice advises me that he has for sale Bing's Autobiography Part One 1927-1934 IAT 825I and Part 2 1934-1941 IAT 8382 both L.P.'s as new, 25/- each or a suitable exchange.

That winds it up for this time friends, best wishes and hope to see a lot of you on July 20th..... cheers JACK

a recent article entitled PAUL WHITEMAN - NEW DISCOVERIES by Fred Reynolds, recieved great praise from club members. now Fred has sent in another very informative article, this time without a title. So we're taking a chance and using the latter part of the first successful piece - here goes with

..... NEW DISCOVERIES?.....

I recently discovered that on Bing's first ever recording date, 18th of October 1926, when he and Al Rinker duetted the vocal on "I've got the girl" with Don Clark's Orchestra, another item called "Don't somebody need somebody" was also recorded by the band. There is always the possibility that Crosby recorded more than one song before joining Whiteman - note his cryptic reference in the autobiography album - and I pounced on this new information with the thought that Don Clark had very likely engaged the two youthful aspirants for both songs.

In a letter recieved from Bing a few days ago however, he tells me that he is pretty sure that he and Al Rinker were not used on "Don't somebody need somebody". However he goes on "we could have been. I could only tell if I heard it. Unfortunately the possibility of anyone hearing it is extremely remote for the record was never issued, no test pressing exists so far as is known and American Columbia have almost certainly destroyed the master. It is therefore something that may never be resolved and the possibility remains that this was a Crosby recording.

A number of people were interested in my article about ITV's showing of the Bing Crosby show in February last. Bing remarks "I'm sorry about the quality of the television shows, Fred. There isn't much we can do about it. We sell the prints outright and they are then at their disposal to use as they see fit". I think that puts the responsibility where it belongs.

All members will be pleased to know that Bing is feeling very fit again, having been down in Mexico fishing for a couple of months.

--- Fred Reynolds ---

Presenting LES GAYLOR'S "CROSBY CHATTER" - this month
 Les includes letters from Both Bing and Larry Crosby..
 Plus some interesting data on Bing's first recording -
 "I've got the girl"

Hello members,

I am starting off my feature this time by saying that I have had one or two answers regarding the poor picture and sound quality of Bing's television shows. Most Crosby fans it appears have not enjoyed Bing's shows as much as they would have liked, nor have the average viewers.

I have tried to look into the complaints of people, as no doubt many of you have yourselves, and it is clear to me that they do not like the editing of Bing's shows to cut them down for transmission time. This creates the position of bits and pieces put together amid scratchy soundtracks and screen flashes. Viewers would like to see the shows in their entirety.

LARRY CROSBY comments on the very poor pictures in this letter..

BING CROSBY - HOLLYWOOD - April 29, 1963

Dear Mr Gaylor;

Regarding the poor quality of some of the television shows, we have found that you can not get good quality putting tape on film, and have discontinued doing so.

From tape to picture to negative to picture creates a four time diffusion.

We hope Britain will come up to tape, its faster, longer lasting safer and less costly.

Best regards

Sgd

Larry Crosby

I have recently written a long letter to Murdo Mc Kenzie the producer of Bing's shows. The sound quality is not up to British standards by a long shot, rather poor studio acoustics I should say and probably poor equipment.

Generally Bing is recorded with his voice on the same level as the orchestra or is partly drowned by the music which in many cases gives one the impression that all the instrumentalists seem to be blaring against each other. Whilst on the subject I note that Bing was on the Dinah Shore show recently, and in colour.

Best news of late also comes in Bing's letter to Stan White re the possible release of some of the CBS material. I well remember when Fred Reynolds and I were talking to Bing outside the studio at Shepperton, about the release of more of these tracks. Bing said, "We have a big library of them back home" and when he returned he said he'd have a word with Simon Raby, Project Records President.

I note that Johnny Johnston writer of the TV "Shell commercial jingle recently won the Television Mails award for the best jingle of 1962. So far five artists have recorded it and the recording submitted was the Michael Holliday version with the Keynotes. The Bing version of the jingle will be transmitted on Sunday Aug 25.

A further letter from Larry Crosby says that the "Devil's Advocate" is already being worked on and that shooting will be done in Europe probably Italy.

Recently I was successful in having a serial on Bing printed in New Record Mirror and the general opinion was that I gave Bing quite a good boost. Bing himself is anxious to see the copies and I have mailed him four copies also a further four copies to the office for their files. Here is the recent letter I recieved from Bing.

BING CROSBY - HOLLYWOOD - May 7, 1963

Dear Leslie;

Thanks for your note, glad to hear the good news about the article you've done, and about its reception. This must make you feel very proud, and I too am proud to know that there are so many people interested in news about me.

I will be anxious to see the copies when you send them on.

I'm just back in Hollywood for a couple of days from my fishing resort down in Mexico, going back there with the family, or at least some of them, and will stay there until mid-June.

Have some plans for some albums and some television spectaculars. There's been a great deal of criticism about the quality of the spectaculars as shown in England, and I'm trying to see if something can be done to correct this,.

I hope the next one you see will be improved.

With all best regards -

As ever,

Sgd BING

I recently recieved a letter from the BBC Gramophone library. They tell me that they are keen to obtain a copy of "I've got the girl" and to state my price. Well, on this issue I cannot help them out, but if anyone is interested in selling them a copy, contact Mr Valentine Britten, Gramophone Librarian, Broadcasting House, London W1

At the time of writing I am awaiting his reply to see if he is interest in a proffessional dubbing or that someone may visit Broadcasting house with a good copy that they can copy.

Les concludes Crosby Chatter on page 18

If you want it, I suppose you must expect to pay for it - I wonder just how flexible this rule is. How much should a collector expect to pay for the old Bing 78's;

A recent ad in Vintage Jazz Mart offered a number of early tracks that I need, though I do have dubbys; So I made my bids for titles like "Shadows on the window/Love you funny thing - With summer coming on/Love me tonight, and a few other early Brunswicks. My bids of 10/- each didn't meet with success as I learned the Brunswicks went for 30/- each; I also failed with a 21/- bid for "Lawd you made the night too long" this went for £5 - I was successful though with another bid when I offered 21/- for a rare record of Laurel & Hardy my heroes of the comedy world - a rare 12" Col "Dance of the Cuckoo" but with the Bing's - no dice.

During all my years of collecting I've found most collectors a fair crowd - on my frequent visits to our late Co-Pres Bill Taylor's home I usually came away with a few hard to get ones at a cost of not more than a few shillings each - The very most I've ever paid for a 78 single was 15/- for a Columbia of "Starlight/I guess it had to be that way" - But for the record, I think it would be useful to all of us if a collector could give us a sort of guidance list on the price to pay for the real hard to get oldies; I agree of course that my opening line could be the only pointer, but I still feel we could draft out a list of helpful guides. Not all collectors are 'sharks of course as members like Michael Crampton speaks highly of the fair dealings of collector Terence Thompson - Bill Hall speaks highly of collector Alan Turie and the members who recently attended the meeting at Ralph Hardings certainly didn't appear to have any grumbles at Ralph's prices; But there are those who don't have scruples, and for them and for our guidance, I'd really like a little friendly list - just for reference purposes.

LES GAYLOR concludes this months "CROSBY CHATTER"

A further point of interest is that the Bing Crosby's and the President of the USA and his wife made a joint present of an electric organ to the St John's Seminary College Pamarillo. This special Christmas gift was made on Dec 25 and the organ bears a gold plate with the donor's names. It was originally offered by the Crosby's to the Kennedy's but the President requested that it be offered to some worthy cause.

The Seminary was chosen by Bing and it is here that 325 students are studying for the Priesthood.

A further award was made to Bing this year for his boosting of the building fund for the Gets Way Peninsula at Monterey. Bing's Pro-Amateur Golf Championship has so far contributed 16,000 dollars towards this centre for retarded children.

Well members this is all for now and keep those record requests and plug letters rolling in for the one and only - until next time my very best wishes to you all..... Leslie Gaylor

FILM NOTE - by Les Phythian

The following are extracts from the programme notes I compiled when The Road to Morocco was revived some time ago by Merseyside Film Institute Society. It is thought they might prove of some interest to dedicated readers of CROSBY POST:-

"Between the years 1940 and 1952 the popular Crosby-Hope-Lamour triumvirate haphazardly explored the highways allegedly leading to Singapore, Zanzibar, Morocco, Utopia, Rio and Bali with results that were occasionally inspired, frequently tuneful and at all times entertaining. These were comedies of an unpretentious, free-wheeling kind, built around a series of highly improbable situations allied to slick dialogue, with scarcely a nod in the direction of anything so mundane as a plot. This, when it could be discovered at all, was usually so thin as to be emaciated.

Each of the Road films contains its quota of memorable sequences. Morocco, however, is probably more successful than the others; the situations being (if possible) even zanier, the hilarity more sustained. Here, for example, can be found such special delights as a gifted if disenchanted camel; a spell in the desert that induces not only the expected mirage but some distinctly odd voice transferences into the bargain; the spectacle of Bob Hope turning up here and there in the guise of his deceased aunt; and the 'hotfoot' to end all 'hotfoots'. (Or should that be 'hotfeet'?)

Essentially, then, this is a lighthearted exercise in filmcraft with nothing whatever to offer those misguided zealots who confuse seriousness with solemnity. Pointing out to such individuals the undoubted error of their ways is a task I prefer to avoid, but if any of the dreaded 'Catharsis-or-nothing' brigade are present this evening out of curiosity it seems only fair and reasonable to warn them that they're in for a singularly unrewarding time. Indeed the only Message to be found in this movie, as I recall, is the one scribbled with hasty cunning by Bob and thrown to Bing, entreating the latter to "flea" the country!

As for the perennial Mr. Crosby, I wonder if it is generally realised how beautifully-timed are even his most casual performances? This wholly admirable quality, obscured though it often is by the insouciance of his delivery, has in fact been one of Bing's greatest assets throughout a long and varied film career. Vocally, too, when the bulk of contemporary so-called popular singing is synonymous with dull mediocrity, it is perhaps too easily forgotten that all through the 1930s and well into the '40s Bing Crosby led this field with unfailing artistry and distinction. In the course of so doing, he achieved an astonishing output of fine recordings (many of them classics of their kind) which gladdened the hearts of discerning collectors in every part of the world and made nonsense of the 'crooner' tag invariably attached to his name by a woefully insensitive press. For in those vintage years Bing possessed a voice of exceptional quality, range and flexibility which, with an unerring sense of rhythm and the most imaginative phrasing in the business, combined to create a vocal style so abundantly rich that it has never been approached by even the most accomplished of his successors.

By the time The Road to Morocco was made, Crosby's effective singing range had become modified to some extent (being concentrated in and around his expressive lower register) and the once-adventurous style somewhat mellowed. It remained unique, however. Here Bing sings the attractive ballad "Moonlight Becomes You" with all the deceptive ease which has made him the owner of the best-known voice in entertainment history. Yet, paradoxically, it is in numbers such as the tongue-in-cheek title duet or the catchy "Ain't Got a Dime to My Name" that traces of the old mastery can still be heard - the nimble phrasing, the impeccable timing.

All things considered, The Road to Morocco, in common with the rest of the well-known jaunts, is inconsequential and a whole lot of fun - a tonic diversion for everyone concerned, especially the audience."

